

Rev. Thomas R. Austin Family

Rev. Thomas R. Austin.

Vincennes. - Death of the Rev. Dr. Austin -

x Indefinite 1884.
The Rev. Thomas Ralph Austin, M.D., D.D., LL.D., died at his residence in this city, on Tuesday evening, March 5th. He was born in London, England, June 16, 1810, and was educated at the Bath Grammar School, and Oxford University, from which he graduated. Though his family designed that he should enter the ministry, he applied himself to the study of medicine, entering St. Giles' Hospital on leaving the university. He came to this country when he was but twenty-two years of age, and was connected with Bellevue Hospital, New York, in the interest of which he was twice sent to Europe. In 1837 he removed to New Albany, in this State, where he was long a prominent practitioner. In the late civil war he entered the medical service of the army, and was promoted to the position of Acting Medical Director of the West, meanwhile establishing several hospitals, one of them at Paducah, Ky. After his return to New Albany, he was ordained to the ministry of the Church at that place. He began work in Jeffersonville, where he founded a flourishing mission, which soon grew into a substantial parish. Afterwards he was successively in charge of parishes at Olney and Terre Haute, and of St. James' Church in this city, which he was compelled, by impaired health, to resign two years ago. While at Olney his library of 7,000 volumes, valued at \$25,000, was destroyed by fire. Dr. Austin was twice married, and his second wife and a number of children survive him.

Taken from The Churchman of Mar. 15, 1884.

Was born in Hudson, N. Y. Feb. 16, 1836, the eldest son of a family of ten, and was educated at Union College Schenectady, N. Y. (under Dr. John Austin Yates, a relative.) The son of Albert Bennett Austin, for many years Criminal Judge in the State of New York and Jane Elizabeth Hannah, daughter of Agnes Douglas of "Castle Dangerous" (Douglas Castle) and Thomas Hannah of ^{married at} (the Mill of the Garleighs,) Galloway, Scotland. *Castle Sorby*

Judge Austin brought his family West to live in Paris Illinois about 1850, and my father, who had been left in the East in college followed shortly before the civil war; he enlisted among the first in in the 21st Illinois Regt' (of which Gen'l Grant was made Col' in a few months) and rose to the rank of Adjutant of that Regt' although twice refusing advancement in favor of older and married men who needed the pay to support their families.

He was wounded five times, beside two minor flesh wounds, in the battle of Chicamauga. Quoting from an old news-paper-"Lieut" Austin started the carving of his initials on the scroll of fame. Running back and forth in front of his men, directing the fire and waving his sword encouragingly, he was picked out by the sharpshooters of the confederates for extermination. Three of the "long rifles must have decided to shoot him at once as he was hit three times within as many minutes, three wounds which caused him to be permanently injured; two of the bullets he carried through life.--- Two entered his right thigh within two inches of each other. With blood dripping into his boots, and spurting as he walked, Austin staggered in front of his men leading them on until a ball struck him in the right shoulder paralysing that side. Dropping his sword to the ground Lieut Austin sank down at last, put out by the confederate sharp-shooters. This, I believe was his Great Moment.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Another quotation from the same paper says "Lieut" A. G. Austin was also a name inscribed on the list of officers selected to compose that dream staff "The Corps of Honor" created by a Gen'l (I Believe Rosecrans) with the idea that such a corps would make a reserve to throw into weakening breaches in lines during battle, sure to turn the tide with their display of bravery. A change in command caused the "Corpse of Honor" idea to be abandoned, but the men named treasure honor of having been chosen". Especially as there could be but one from a Regt.

Before the close of the war he married Miss Sarah H. Cornwell daughter of B. H. Cornwell and Carolyn Brokaw old Terre Haute citizens. He then went into the wholesale and retail hardware business in partnership with his father in law, in this town: in which he engaged for over forty years.

His characteristics were strongly marked, he was the most generous, energetic, uncomplaining, unselfish person I have ever known, giving a large part of his income in an unusual way; when ever a customer came to him with a pitiful story of poverty or illness in his family, Mr. Austin would cut his bill in half or cancel it altogether: this was soon known among the painters and carpenters who were heavy buyers of hardware; and it soon became apparent that most of their families were more susceptible to all the ills that flesh is heir to than men of any other occupation. But he always believed them, preferring that the other man have the best of the bargain. In all my life I never heard him speak an ill word of anyone, when a child I recall his having taken a traveling salesman by the collar and throwing him violently to the sidewalk for having spoken insultingly of one of our Terre Haute ladies who was passing his store.

A very small incident that I always thought characteristic of my father was that at the end of his first year in business, still but a lad, he had saved only twenty one dollars, which he presented

to his father, who, he said "Had so many other children to educate."

Upon first coming West he accepted a position as Indian Agent, in Kansas, where he had many thrilling and interesting experiences; but malaria drove him back to Indiana.

At the age of seventy he retired from active business life, and soon after was stricken with paralysis; caused the physicians thought by pressure on the nerves of the bullets which could not be extracted.

The next eleven years were devoted to reading and study, having a natural aptitude for languages; he was a good Latin scholar, spoke German fairly well, and had a smattering of several other languages: being an omniverous newspaper reader, he was lost without several large papers, which he would sit up until the wee hours to devour when prevented by business during the day.

The fourth stroke of paralysis caused his death after an illness of three weeks Aug. 3, 1917 in Jacksonville Fla. A christian from childhood, untill after middle age a deacon in the Presbyterian Church; a member of the Masonic Lodge; an unselfish devoted son, husband and father. A lover of Terre Haute, to him no people could quite equal the Terre Haute people, or be as dear.

GEN.

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"Austin's section under fire secured the attention of the secretary of war, he retains a letter from the secretary stating that his conduct at Chicamauga was " such that the Government could not afford to lose his services."

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Carolyn Austin Miller

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